

April 1, 1948.

Dr. N. K. Richtmyer,
National Institute of Health,
Bethesda 14, Maryland.

Dear Dr. Richtmyer,

Thank you very much for the three samples of lactose analogues which arrived yesterday. I have had an opportunity to make some preliminary tests with a set of E. coli mutants, and you may be pleased to hear that they bear out your predictions. Galactosan was not used appreciably by any strain. Neolactose showed the same response, as McCloskey and Porter (PSEBM 60:269) had reported previously for other strains. "epi-lactose" showed precisely the same specificity as lactose, and was not utilized by certain mutants which can attack methyl -D-galactoside, but not lactose. Unless, then, "progressive" mutants can be developed which will be able to utilize neolactose or galactosan, these compounds cannot, unfortunately, be used for the further classification of the available mutations.

Dr. Link has agreed to arrange for the hydrogenation of some lactose to produce lactitol. It would facilitate matters to have a small amount of seed. I failed to notice any container in your recent parcel that could be construed as carrying this item, although from your letter I had expected to find it. Can you send a few crystals?

Your help is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Assistant Professor of Genetics.